

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10196

FOLLOWING RECD FROM SAO PAULO DATED 21 NOV SENT ACTION
BRASILIA INFO RIO DE JANEIRO NOW BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR
INFO:

QUOTE

SAO PAULO 2484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: FIFTH MILITARY REGION COMMANDER'S STATEMENT OF PCB AIMS

1. THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY GENERAL SAMUEL AUGUSTO ALVES
CORREA, COMMANDER OF THE FIFTH MILITARY REGION (HEADQUARTERED
IN CURITIBA, PARANA), TO WHICH I REFERRED IN MY CONVERSATION
WITH AMBASSADOR WAS REPORTED IN "O ESTADO DE
SAO PAULO" NOVEMBER 14. THE COMMUNIQUE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO
REPORTERS THE PREVIOUS DAY AND WAS BILLED AS A FINAL REPORT OF
THE RESULTS OF "OPERACAO MARUMBI", THE CODE NAME GIVEN TO
THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES' OPERATION TO DISMANTLE, REPORTEDLY,
RECENTLY RECONSTITUTED PCB ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE OF PARANA. AS
REPORTED IN "O ESTADO", THE COMMUNIQUE TRACED THE ATTEMPTS
OF THE PCB TO REORGANIZE ITSELF IN PARANA FOLLOWING THE MASSIVE
ARRESTS WHICH DISABLED THE PARTY IN SEPTEMBER 1967. ACCORDING
TO THE COMMUNIQUE, A FORMAL DECISION TO RECONSTITUTE THE PCB
OF PARANA STATE AND WAS REACHED AT A MEETING IN CURITIBA ON JAN-
UARY 19, 1975, AT WHICH TIME OFFICERS WERE ELECTED TO THE
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE COMMUNIQUE CITED THE DATES
AND LOCATIONS OF OTHER MEETINGS HELD IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
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STATE WITH A VIEW TOWARDS REORGANIZING PCB MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES
IN PARANA. IT ALSO LISTED THE NAMES OF 67 IMPLICATED

INDIVIDUALS (WE COUNTED 66 IN THE "O ESTADO" REWRITE)
WHO WERE ARRESTED AS PART OF "OPERACAO MARUMBI".

2. THE PORTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE TEXT WHICH STRUCK OUR
ATTENTION WAS THAT DEALING WITH THE PCB'S DECLARED PARTY PLAT-
FORM IN PARANA, CONSISTING AS FOLLOWS: "AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL
PRISONERS; DIRECT ELECTIONS AT ALL LEVELS; ABOLITION OF
AI-5, DECREE LAW 477 AND CENSORSHIP; REESTABLISHMENT OF
HABEAS CORPUS FOR CRIMES INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY
LAW; AND CONVOCAION OF A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN ORDER TO
DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR BRAZIL."

3. ASIDE FROM THE PARTY'S REPORTED ATTEMPT TO REORGANIZE
ITSELF AT THE STATE AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS IN PARANA, WHICH OF
COURSE IS ILLEGAL UNDER BRAZILIAN LAW, THIS IS THE ONLY
INFORMATION INCLUDED IN "O ESTADO'S" REWRITE OF THE COMMUNI-
QUE SUGGESTING WHAT THE PCB ALLEGEDLY WAS UP TO IN PARANA.
WHAT STRIKES US, OF COURSE, IS THAT THE PCB PLATFORM, AS
THEREIN CITED, IS ALMOST VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF THE
LEGALLY CONSTITUTED OPPOSITION PARTY OF BRAZIL--THE MDB.
THE REPORTED PLATFORM CONTAINS NO SUBVERSIVE CONTENT AND,
IN FACT, DOES NOT DEPART IN ANY WAY FROM ACCEPTABLE WESTERN
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL THEORY. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THERE
HAS BEEN A COMMON THEME RUNNING THROUGH VARIOUS OFFICIAL
COMMUNIQUEES ABOUT ALLEGED PCB ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PCB ALLEGEDLY WAS ATTEMPTING TO WORK
WITHIN THE EXISTING POLITICAL SYSTEM. USUALLY, THIS HAS BEEN A
REFERENCE TO ALLEGED PCB ATTEMPTS TO USE THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM
FOR ITS OWN ENDS, SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE ALLEGATION THAT
THE PCB HAD SUPPORTED THE ELECTION OF VARIOUS MDB CANDIDATES
IN NOVEMBER 1974.

4. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THE ALLEGED COMMUNISTS ARRESTED
OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS IN PARANA AND IN SAO PAULO ARE ALSO
ACTIVISTS OR MEMBERS OF THE MDB PARTY, GIVING RISE TO
HEIGHTENED CONCERN WITHIN THE MDB THAT THE ARRESTS WERE
INTENDED TO INTIMIDATE THE OPPOSITION PARTY AS THE FIRST STEP
IN A CAMPAIGN INTENDED TO WEAKEN THE MDB'S ELECTORAL PROSPECTS
IN 1976 AND 1978. IN THE VIEW OF SOME MDB LEADERS IN SAO
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SAO PAULO, THE MILITARY AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES' PRESUMED REFUSAL
TO PERMIT AN MDB ELECTORAL TRIUMPH IN 1978 IS INTRICATELY
CONNECTED WITH "THE SYSTEM'S" OPPOSITION TO FURTHER MOVES
TOWARDS "DISTENSAO". IN THE OPINION OF THESE OPPOSITION LEADERS,
THE MILITARY SEES AN MDB ELECTION VICTORY AS LEADING TO AN
END TO THE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTS ARE
SELECTED BY THE ARMY HIGH COMMAND, I.E., AS LEADING TO A
TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE MILITARY TO CONSTITUTIONAL
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. (THIS INCIDENTALLY, IS ALSO THE ULTIMATE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECENTLY REVIVED TALK ABOUT REORGANIZING

THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ACCORDING TO SOME LOCAL POLITICIANS, WHICH HOWEVER IS PRESENTLY BEING ADVANCED IN THE PRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF BEING PART OF A PRESUMED PRESIDENTIAL EFFORT TO GET "DISTENSAO" GOING AGAIN).

5. WHEN PRESIDENT GEISEL VISITED SAO PAULO RECENTLY AND MET WITH LEADERS OF THE MDB STATE LEGISLATIVE BENCH, HE ASSURED THEM THAT THE ARRESTS WERE AIMED STRICTLY AT SUBVERSION AND NOT AGAINST ANY PROFESSIONAL CLASS OR POLITICAL PARTY TO WHICH THE SUBVERSIVES MAY HAVE COINCIDENTALLY AFFILIATED THEMSELVES. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, THESE ASSURANCES HAVE HELPED REDUCE TENSIONS IN SAO PAULO POLITICAL CIRCLES. IN THEIR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS, LOCAL MDB LEADERS HAVE ACCEPTED THESE ASSURANCES AT FACE VALUE. HOWEVER, PRIVATELY THE MDB LEADERS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO US THAT THEIR MISGIVINGS HAVE NOT BEEN REMOVED.
CHAPIN UNQUOTE
JOHNSON

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